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CPYRGHT

Norman Ross
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STATINTL

FULL TEXT

"Good evening, everybody. The CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, our super secret top intelligence outfit, is in the news again today because of the fact that the outgoing CIA head, Allen Dulles, has been replaced by a fellow Republican, one time West Coast ship builder, a wealthy man, a one-time head of the Atomic Energy Commission, 55-year-old John McCone.

"If McCone is anything like Dulles after a brief flurry of reports and things like that press conference with President Kennedy at Hyannis Port today, he will slip into anonymity. It is so necessary to be secretive and so sensitive an agency. Mr. Dulles only granted one brief interview that I know of. That was back in 1954.

"The CIA this past July issued a rare document which I read today, a 20-page report on its officials and just a bit about its activities. It raised the curtain only a tiny bit. In it the agency reminds us that it does not confirm or deny published reports, whether good or bad. It never alibis, never explains its organization, never identifies its personnel except for the few in the very top echelon, and will not discuss its budget, its method of operation or its sources of information.

"With that sweeping a list of things it necessarily won't reveal you might wonder what it could fill up 20 pages with. Well, really not very much, to tell you the truth. In one way I feel sort of sorry for the CIA. The communists can accuse it of complicity in anything it wants to, and they always do. Its domestic enemies can accuse it of failure after failure, and they often do, and it can never deny anything because even a denial may indicate something of aid and comfort to the enemy. Also it can't brag about any of its successes, because that, too, would be revealing and might betray some of our prime sources of information.

"Who knows, for instance, what disasters it no doubt has averted as far as our country is concerned? Who knows what information it has discovered about communist assassinations, what devices like GYAF-2 it has been using in secret? The CIA can't blow its own trumpet. Who, except in the very highest reaches of the government, really knows what part it did or didn't take in the abortive Cuban invasion for which it took the major share of the blame? It might deserve the criticism it received. I really don't know, but I'll bet a lot of the people who did the criticizing don't know either.

"There has been, of course, a little amount of yelling that the CIA should be under some kind of Congressional control, that it should gather information but shouldn't carry out its own policies, attempt control by Congress instead of simply nominally by the President. Probably you can expect the agency's wings to have been clipped a little bit under its new management.

"Mr. Dulles, at least until his press conference today when Mr. Kennedy praised him so highly, seemed to have been under a bit of a cloud. That is a shame, for he